

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

NOTE FOR CONTRACTORS: Reinstatement of claims 1, 26 and 27 is being made in response to request made by the Examiner.

Please amend the claims without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows.

In the claims:

1. (Reinstated and Currently Amended) A composition of matter, which comprises in admixture; N-acetylcysteine, N-acetyl-d-glucosamine and vitamin C whereby the amount of vitamin C is in an amount of at least 1000 mg. or greater to facilitate the absorption of N-acetylcysteine across the cellular membrane; and, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier for oral administration

2-25. (Canceled)

26. (Reinstated) The composition of claim 1 further comprising a probiotic, said probiotic for promoting the breakdown and absorption of nutrients, the elimination of toxins and to inhibit the growth of harmful bacteria in the gastrointestinal tract, thereby facilitating the absorption of N-acetylcysteine into the gastrointestinal tract.

27. (Reinstated and Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein said probiotic comprises one or more bacteria selected from the group consisting of ~~bifidobacterium longum, bifidobacterium infantis, lactobacillus acidophilus, lactobacillus casei, lactobacillus rhamnosus, saccharomyces boulardi, propionibacteria and enterococci~~ Bifidobacterium longum, Bifidobacterium infantis, Lactobacillus acidophilus, Lactobacillus casei, Lactobacillus rhamnosus, Saccharomyces boulardi, Propionibacteria and Enterococci.

28-34. (Canceled)

35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) ~~The systemic administration of~~ A method of treatment comprising the step of systemically administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of the composition according to claim 35 to a mammal suffering from low glutathione levels, to stimulate the natural production of glutathione in the biologically active cells of the mammal and reduce symptoms of diseases caused by excess unneutralized free radicals.

37. (Currently Amended) ~~The systemic administration~~ The method of treatment according to claim 36, wherein the disease is a member of the group consisting of pulmonary oxygen toxicity, adult respiratory distress syndrome, ~~broncopulmonary~~ bronchopulmonary dysplasia, ~~sepsis~~ sepsis syndrome, Parkinson's disease, encephalitis, endotoxemia, anoxia induced neuronal damage, ischemic reperfusion injury, inflammatory diseases, systemic lupus erythematosus, myocardial infarction, stroke, traumatic hemorrhage, spinal cord trauma, Crohn's disease, rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes, cataract formation, ~~uveitis~~ uveitis, emphysema, gastric ulcers, oxygen toxicity, neoplasia, undesired cell apoptosis, and radiation sickness.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously Presented) A method of promoting the biosynthesis of mucosal glycoproteins and/or facilitating the absorption of N-acetylcysteine into a gastrointestinal tract of a mammal, comprising the step of administering the composition of claim 35.